

International Online Contest “St. Valentine’s Day”

Student Creative Work Gallery



Organizer:

*Academician Stepan Demianchuk
International University of
Economics and Humanities*

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February 2025

CATEGORY 1. POSTERS

1



Valentine's Day, celebrated on February 14th, is a special occasion dedicated to love and romance. It is named after Saint Valentine, a Christian martyr who, according to legend, secretly married couples despite a ban by the Roman Emperor. Over time, the day became associated with expressing affection through love letters, gifts, and flowers, especially roses. Today, people around the world celebrate by exchanging cards, chocolates, and romantic gestures to show their love and appreciation for their partners, friends, and family.

Ameliia Popovych (Svaliava school N 1, Ukraine)

Happy Valentine's Day



- ♥ The holiday originates from the Roman priest Valentine, who secretly married couples.
- ♥ The name Valentine comes from the Latin word "valens", meaning "strong" or "healthy".
- ♥ The first valentines appeared in England in the 15th century.
- ♥ In the Middle Ages, February 14 became a holiday for lovers.
- ♥ In the Middle Ages, there was a rite when couples chose each other by lottery.

3

Some Fascinating Facts

Love

Valentine's Day is the 2nd largest holiday for sending greeting cards

The most valentines are received by teachers



People exchange over 145 million cards



BE MY Valentine

Millions of Valentine's gifts are for pets



4

You are welcome to the most romantic places in Ukraine!



Together
forever

5

Happy Valentine's Day



Klevan Sanatorium School, Ukraine

ALL YOU NEED IS *Love*

Love Quotes

"Love is like the wind, you can't see it but you can feel it." - **Nicholas Sparks**

"You, yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection." - **Buddha**

"You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."
- **Dr. Seuss**

"Love is when the other person's happiness is more important than your own."
- **H. Jackson Brown Jr.**

"Love is not just something you feel, it is something you do." - **David Wilkerson**



The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman emperor Claudius II and a humble Christian priest Valentine.



Claudius declared it unlawful for young men to marry. He seen the king wanted them to be selders in faraway lands. He thought that if the young men were married would worry about their families back home and so wouldn't make very good warriors. Valentine disobeyed the king and secretly married many young couples.

When Claudius found out about it he sent Valentine to prison. According to legend, during his imprisonment, Saint Valentine healed the daughter of his jailer, Julia. Befere his execution The bishop passed her a note signed «From your Valentine» as a farewell.

This story has become into the defining tradition of Valentine's Day.





Happy Valentine's Day!



A Sweet Poem

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
A day full of love,
Is waiting for you!

Fun Facts About Valentine's Day

- Fact 1: More than 145 million Valentine's cards are sent every year! 📄
- Fact 2: Over 250 million roses are sold worldwide for Valentine's Day! 🌹
- Fact 3: The first recorded Valentine's message was written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife from prison. 📜
- Fact 4: Chocolate became a Valentine's tradition in the 19th century. 🍫
- Fact 5: In Japan, women give chocolates on Valentine's Day, and men return the favor on March 14 (White Day). 🍫

Who is Your Valentine? 💕

✓ My Best Friend 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

✓ My Family 🧑🏻👨🏻👧🏻

✓ My Pet 🐶🐱

✓ My Secret Crush 💕

Write a sweet note for someone you love!



Valentine's Day Traditions

Valentine's Day has first celebrated on 14th of February 1981.

Due to the influence of global marketing and the rise of social media

In Türkiye, people deliver flowers and gifts anonymously (secret admirer letters)

Valentine's Day had first honored to remember the **Saint Valentine**. After a few decades, the aim of the celebration has changed and continued by this time. In other words, they began to celebrate as lover's day

FEBRUARY
14



Hasan Sevim (Cukurova University, Turkey)

19 LOVE OR FRIENDSHIP?

IN JAPAN, IT'S THE MEN WHO ARE GIVEN PRESENTS BY WOMEN.
**GIRI FOR FRIENDS, HONMEI FOR LOVE -
WHICH ONE WILL YOU GET?**

TRADITION

In Japan, there is a tradition where women give chocolates to men on Valentine's Day. The gesture symbolizes affection, gratitude, or respect.



HONMEI CHOCO

is handmade and given only to significant others, therefore, the quality is exceptional.

It reflects a genuine expression of love and

GIRI CHOCO

is typically bought in a shop and given to colleagues or acquaintances.

It is a gesture of goodwill and a way



1. Skip the flowers – give a potted plant instead
2. Sustainable Valentine's Day flowers – eco-friendly floral choices
3. Keep it sweet with fair-trade chocolate
4. Support local businesses with unique Valentine's Day gifts
5. Share a delicious and LOCAL meal
6. Thrift store gift cards – a sustainable Valentine's Day choice
7. Be extra-thoughtful with a homemade card over store-bought gifts
8. Shop for eco-conscious wrapping paper or use one you already have
9. Sustainable jewelry for Valentine's Day – ethical & stunning pieces
10. Choose meaningful activities over store-bought gifts

GIFTS
MEMORIES
NOT
WASTE!

**HAVE A CLIMATE-
CONCIOUS VALENTINE'S DAY!**

VALENTINE'S DAY

1

Origin of the holiday

Valentine's Day is named after Saint Valentine, a mysterious figure who was believed to have secretly married couples during the Roman Empire.



2

Chocolate&love

Richard Cadbury, a British chocolatier, is credited with creating the first heart-shaped box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in the 19th century.



5

Diamonds

About 6 million couples get engaged on Valentine's Day every year. No wonder February is a big month for jewelers!



3

Flowers&romance

Red roses are the most popular flower for Valentine's Day because they symbolize love and passion. The tradition goes back to the Roman goddess Venus, who loved roses.



Lovebirds

In medieval times, people believed that birds began choosing their mates on February 14th, which contributed to the holiday's romantic associations.

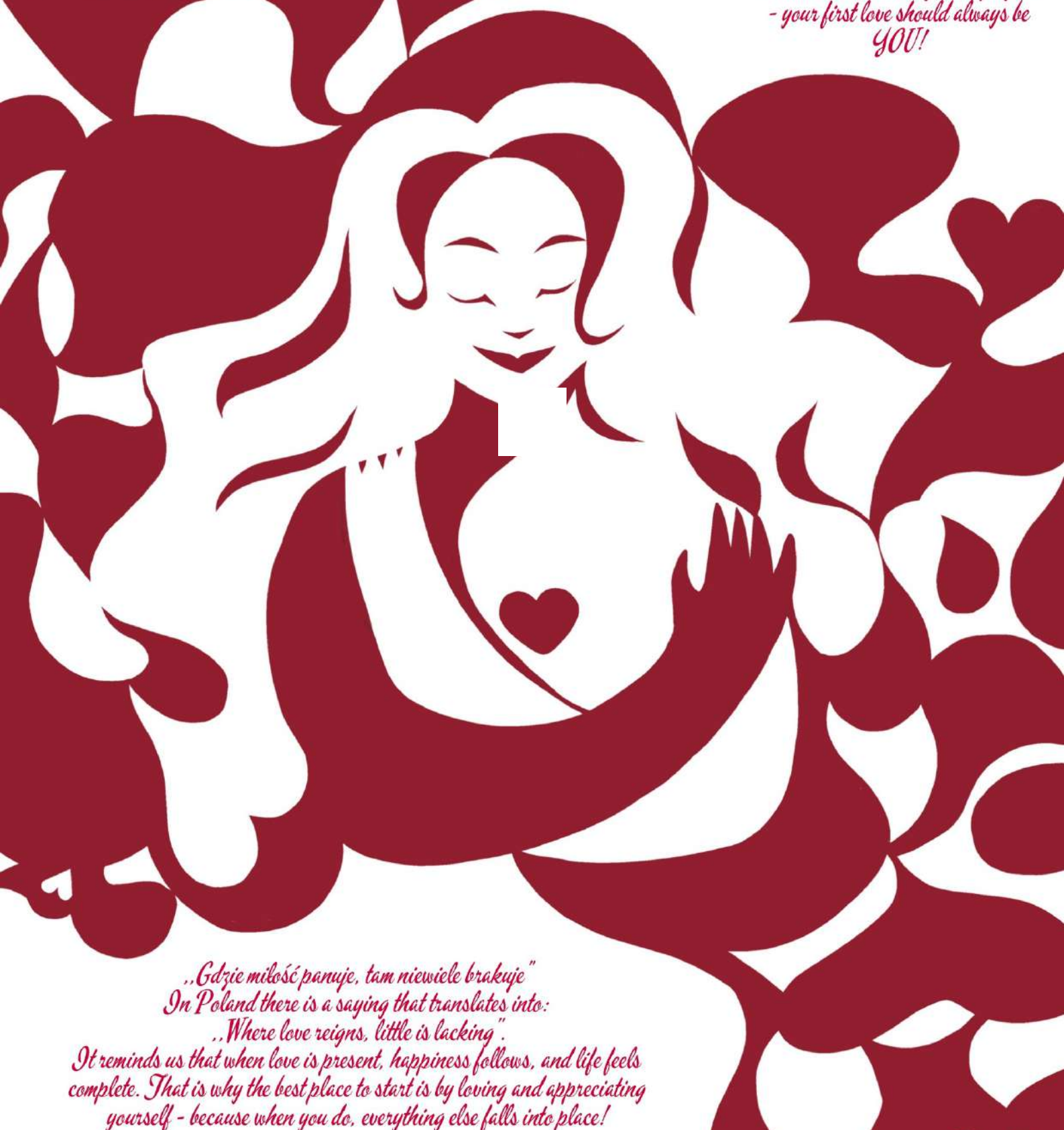


4

You are great!

BE YOUR OWN VALENTINE!

*This Valentine's Day don't forget:
- your first love should always be
YOU!*



*„Gdzie miłość panuje, tam niewiele brakuje”
In Poland there is a saying that translates into:
„Where love reigns, little is lacking”.*

It reminds us that when love is present, happiness follows, and life feels complete. That is why the best place to start is by loving and appreciating yourself - because when you do, everything else falls into place!

Barbara Klause (Silesian University of Technology, Poland)



INTRODUCING

Valentine's

Nowdays, Americans spend nearly \$26 billion on Valentine gifts in 2023.

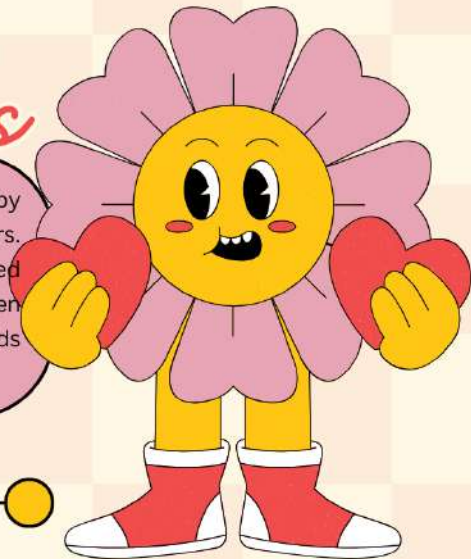
Do you think Valentine's Day was always celebrated with love letters and candy like it is today?

Nope! This holiday used to be celebrated in Rome by sacrificing animals and *gently* slapping women. (crazy right?)

In America, we celebrate Valentines by spending time with significant others. We exchange gifts like heart-shaped chocolates, flowers, and cards, we often express our love with heartfelt words and, sometimes, cheesy poems.

Valentines Day isn't just for significant others. We also spent time with our families!

Holiday of Love!!





HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

In many parts of the world, February 14th is a special date to celebrate love and friendship. However, in Colombia, this celebration doesn't hold as much importance, as we prefer to dedicate a special day in the month of September, specifically the 16th, to express our affection to friends and loved ones.

Valentine's Day might not be a major celebration in Colombia, but love and friendship know no boundaries or calendars. Every day is an opportunity to show our loved ones how much they mean to us, and it's always a good time to celebrate love in all its forms.

LOVE



Happy VALENTINE'S DAY

Love is a universal force that we express for others, for the world and for ourselves.
Don't you ever forget that things made with love really do last forever.



Happy VALENTINE'S DAY

How is Valentine's Day CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD?

As February 14th approaches, people across the globe prepare to celebrate, each country adds its unique, making Valentine's Day a truly global celebration.

In the United States, Valentine's Day is widely regarded as a commercial celebration, with people giving gifts such as chocolates, flowers, and cards to loved ones. This practice is similarly observed in Canada.

In many European countries, such as France embody romance on Valentine's Day with Paris being the ultimate getaway for couples. Italy celebrates Valentine's Day with flair, particularly in Verona—the city immortalized by Romeo and Juliet. The annual 'Verona in Love' event features concerts and shows for couples.

In East Asia, Valentine's Day has taken on a unique character. In Japan, women traditionally give chocolates to men, with the expectation that men will return the favor a month later on White Day, celebrated on March 14th.

In Taiwan, the occasion is marked by couples sharing romantic dinners and exchanging gifts, but there is also an emphasis on honoring friendships.

Latin America infuses its celebration with passion and exuberance. In countries like Colombia, El Día del Amor y la Amistad (the Day of Love and Friendship) is a colorful celebration, not limited to couples but extending to friends and family as well. Participants draw names randomly, keeping their assigned friend a secret. Over a set period, usually a week, they anonymously give small gifts or sweets.

What to Do on VALENTINE'S DAY?

With a Partner:

1. Romantic dinner at a restaurant or at home.
2. Exchange gifts or handmade cards.
3. Plan a weekend getaway or a special date night.
4. Watch a movie or engage in a favorite shared activity.

With Family:

1. Organize a family meal.
2. Playing games.
3. Create Valentine's Day crafts or decorations together.

With Friends:

1. Host a "Galentine's" gathering.
2. Make friendship bracelets.
3. Plan a movie marathon or themed event.
4. Play "Secret Friend".

With Yourself:

1. Pamper yourself with a self-care routine.
2. Enjoy a favorite book, hobby, or activity.
3. Treat yourself to a special dessert.
4. Take time for mindfulness, meditation, or relaxation.





Happy Valentine's Day from Colombia!

From my corner of the world, in Popayán—a city known for its whitewashed colonial buildings and its role as a religious center with popular processions during Holy Week—I want to send you all my support, my hope, and my best wishes.

Here in the White City, we are known for our gastronomy, especially for the delicious Papián empanadas and the warmth of our people. As proud Patojos (locals), we will celebrate love with tamalitos, empanadas, and the company of those who evoke the beats of our hearts and motivate us to celebrate this special day.

In Colombia, Valentine's Day is an occasion to celebrate love, friendship, and connection with others. Although we may not all celebrate the same way, what unites us is the desire to share moments of affection with those we hold dearest.

May this Valentine's Day be a reminder that love and friendship are the forces that help us move forward, no matter the challenges.

I send you a big hug from Colombia, with the hope that the future brings you peace, love, and many reasons to smile.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Friendship And Love

In my country, Colombia, we celebrate love and also friendship on Valentine's Day. On this special date, it is very common to give flowers and go out to eat. Generally, we meet to play "secret friend", which consists of putting names on a piece of paper and drawing one at random. That person will be our secret friend. For a few days, we secretly give our assigned friend small gifts or treats. And on the Day of Love and Friendship, we meet again to share the qualities we appreciate about our friend and give a gift. Most importantly, on this date, we show our loved ones that we value their presence in our lives.



ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

The language of love

Cupid



LEGEND SAYS THAT IF HE SHOOTS YOU, YOU WILL FALL IN LOVE INSTANTLY.

RED ROSES SYMBOLIZE LOVE, THE TRADITION COMES FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY AND APHRODITE, THE GODDESS OF LOVE.

Roses

Heart



IN ANCIENT TIMES, IT WAS BELIEVED TO BE THE CENTER OF HUMAN THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS.

THE RINGS REPRESENT ETERNITY AND AN UNBREAKABLE BOND.

Rings



 A HUG FOREVER.
 LOVE IN EVERY BITE.

Happy Valentine's Day

IN PITALITO, A CITY IN COLOMBIA, WE DANCE "*EL SANJUANERO HUILENSE*", A TRADITIONAL DANCE THAT TELLS A LOVE STORY BETWEEN TWO *OPITAS* (PEOPLE FROM MY REGION: HULIA, COLOMBIA). THE BOY FIGHTS FOR HER LOVE, AND ALTHOUGH SHE INITIALLY TURNS HIM DOWN, THE STORY ENDS WITH A BEAUTIFUL KISS BETWEEN THEM. MAY YOUR LOVE STORY GROW AND LAST, JUST LIKE IN MY CITY'S TRADITIONAL DANCE!

HERE, YOU CAN APPRECIATE ST. VALENTINE ALONGSIDE AN *OPITA* WEARING THE TYPICAL DRESS OF MY REGION—THE ONE WE USE TO DANCE "*EL SANJUANERO HUILENSE*".



Happy Valentine's Day

In Colombia, we celebrate 'Día de Amor y Amistad' (Day of Love and Friendship) This day is our version of Valentine's Day. It's a day to give gifts and show appreciation to those we care about.



One of the most beloved traditions during this celebration is the game of 'Amigo Secreto'. Originating in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, this game began as a way for women to gather and exchange gifts in secret.

YOLANDA

It is played among friends, family, and even in schools. Participants draw names and secretly give gifts to their 'amigo secreto,' trying to guess who their secret friend is after the gifts are opened.



Valentine's Day

Do you believe in love at first sight?



Did you know that in Colombia you can celebrate love twice a year?



In Colombia we celebrate not only the romantic love, but also friendship and family affection.

In this day you could enjoy a game called "Amigo Secreto". In which you'll give and receive gifts from a mysterious friend.



You'll find funny ways to leave candies to your mysterious friend for one week before the reveal.

to do on Valentine's Day

A Basic Guide by someone with no romantic experience

1. Buy gifts for your significant other



2. Take a walk together or visit a nice place



3. Go to your favorite restaurant together



4. Write a romantic letter to show your feelings



If you don't have a partner, you can always try to play "Secret friend" with your friend group. This game consists of selecting a random name from a bag and preparing a gift for that friend. In Colombia, we usually exchange presents on the third Saturday of September, but it can also work as a Valentine's activity.



If you are going to spend Valentine's Day alone (like me), you can always try to...

1. Give yourself a gift (you deserve it)



2. Practice your favorite hobby



3. Take some rest



Self-love is important too

Happy Valentine's Day

In Nariño, a department located in southern Colombia, we have a carnival called "Carnaval de Negros y Blancos", known for its displays of history, culture, art, gastronomy, dances and civility, and especially of love, love of art, nature and the history of our ancestors, which is transmitted to each new generation, demonstrating that family love, love of friends and romantic love, has many ways to demonstrate and one of them is through transmitting and teaching the love for art and our customs.



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Happy Valentine's day In Popayan

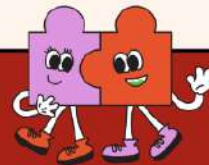
Come and know where we celebrate this day in our beautiful city.



Caldas park



This park is perfect for walking hand in hand with that special person, its romantic lighting will make your date fall in love with its beauty and of course with yours too!



Morro de Tulcán

It's the perfect place for you to have a deep conversation while looking at the beautiful view of my city from above, your date will have a new favorite view besides you.



Their streets full of history, tradition and obviously full of places to take your date to eat the typical food of my city while watching the beautiful sunsets. Your date will be fascinated by it as they're by you.

Traditional streets

**Camila Alejandra Enriquez Ortiz
(The University of Cauca, Colombia)**

Happy Valentine's day!



Colombia is the most beautiful country in Latin America. I love it, we are full of beautiful places and full of our history.

On San Valentin, you can visit, the Pueblito Patojo, a very quiet place, or walk through Caldas park, of course! you can see the sunset in the Morro de Tulcan

Popayan, a Colombia's city, has amazing places to visit with your partner on specials dates

Valentine's Day vs. Love and friendship day in Colombia

FEBRUARY

14TH



It's not the official love celebration in Colombia

In February, we watch Valentine's Day from afar... we celebrate in September!



Increase in flower and chocolate sales

It's not our official day, but we still buy gifts 'just in case' (better safe than sorry).



Restaurants and hotels offer promotions

Special dinner: same menu, twice the price... but with candles!



LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP



It's celebrated in September
Love arrives late here... but with a party!



The popular 'Secret Friend' tradition

You secretly draw a name, give small gifts... and hope you don't get socks in the end.



Colombia exports a lot of flowers

We give away so many flowers that even the bees line up.



Beyond romance

It's for couples, friends, and even that cousin who only shows up for the food.





Valentine's day

Garcia Márquez on love

Garcia Marquez is a great representative of Colombian literature, in one of his works "Love in the Time of Cholera" he shows how love is that which lasts over time facing obstacles and disappointments, where he makes us reflect that Valentine's Day is a space dedicated to all ages who wish to celebrate a love that transforms and lasts over time.



malesuada
Maecenas
felis. Pell
porttitorum ve
arcu. nec vix
magna vel arte au
neque. Aliquam erat
Pellentesque habitant
malesuada fames ac
vitae sollicitudin posu
scelerisque nunc massa
vel. ultricies vel
consectetur eget. a

In in nunc. Clo
per... conubia
allamcorper
dapibus com
dis parturient montes. nasc
faucibus condimentum odio. Sed a
Stimulante hinc et tunc ulla

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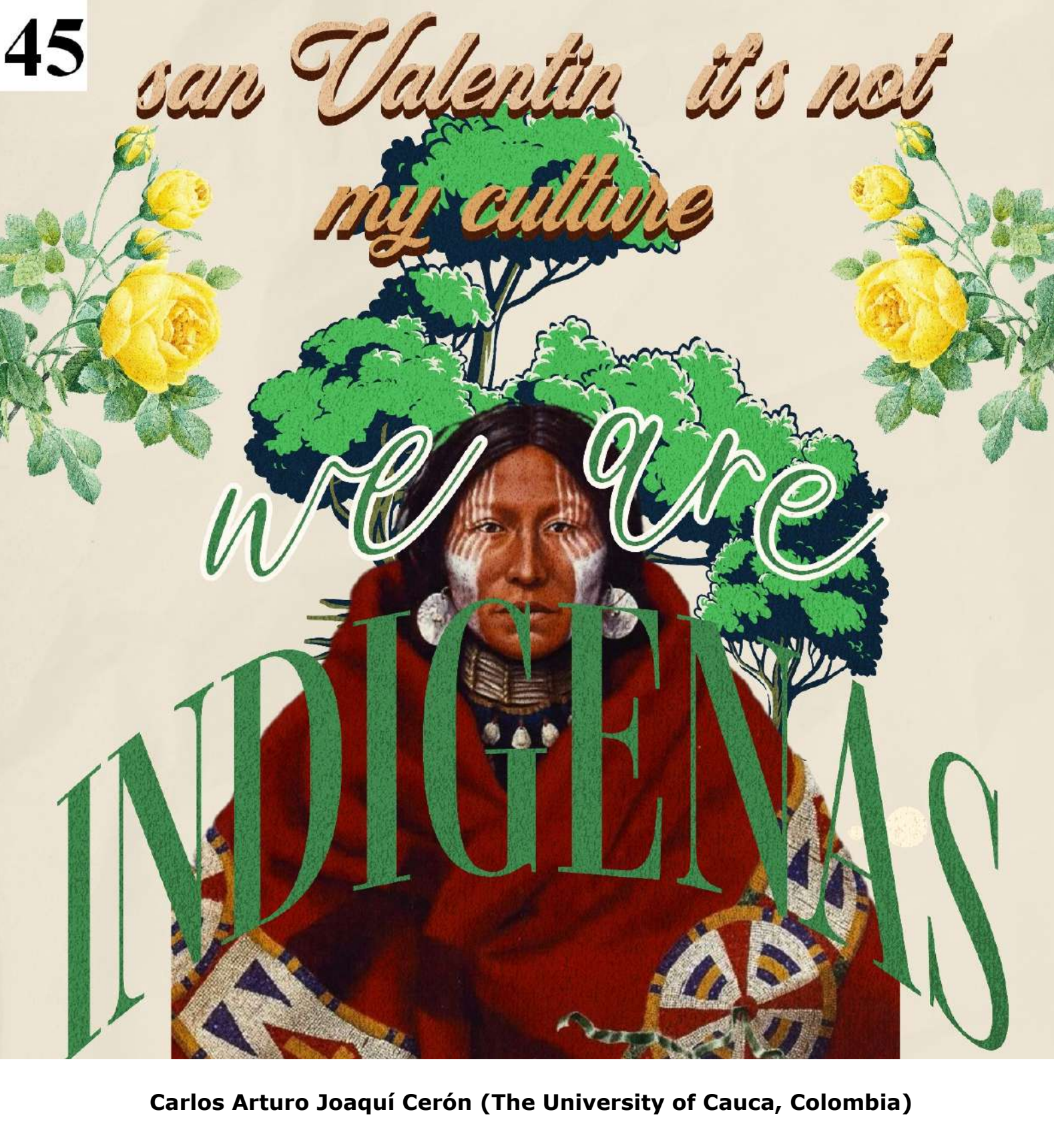
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consequat. Stimulante hinc et tunc ulla

*San Valentin it's not
my culture*

we are

INDIGENAS

Carlos Arturo Joaquín Cerón (The University of Cauca, Colombia)





happy valentine

In my country Colombia, there is a bird called "El Condor de los Andes"

its a emblematic bird of my country, and this bird have a history of love.

this birds are monogamous, they choice one partner for all his life, with wich they will have their offsprings.

And there is an indigenous legend that says, that when one of the two condors dies, the other jumps off a cliff for the loss of its partner.

find and build a love like the condors does .

happy valentine's day



Popayan, the white jewel of

Colombia

Between cobbled streets and golden skies, Popayán holds the essence of history and love for Colombia.

Its colonial architecture, its delicious “Empanada de Pipián”, and its unique landscapes make this city an unparalleled treasure. Like the “Puente del Humilladero” that connects stories, so do the hearts that love this land come together.



Clock Tower



The Humilladero Bridge



Gastronomy

**Happy Valentine's
Day**

Love and flowers

A Valentine's Day Celebration and Colombian culture

In Colombia, love and passion are celebrated with flowers and music. The Medellin Flower Fair is an example of this, where the silleteros parade with their beautiful floral creations.



On Valentine's Day we come together to celebrate love and friendship. In Colombia we do it with our music, our food and our traditions.

Celebrate love and Colombian culture with us this Valentine's Day!



Dear Valentine

In many parts of the world, Valentine's Day is a time for lovers. But in Colombia, it is more than that—it is a day to celebrate love in all its forms: romantic love, friendship, and the bonds that make life meaningful.

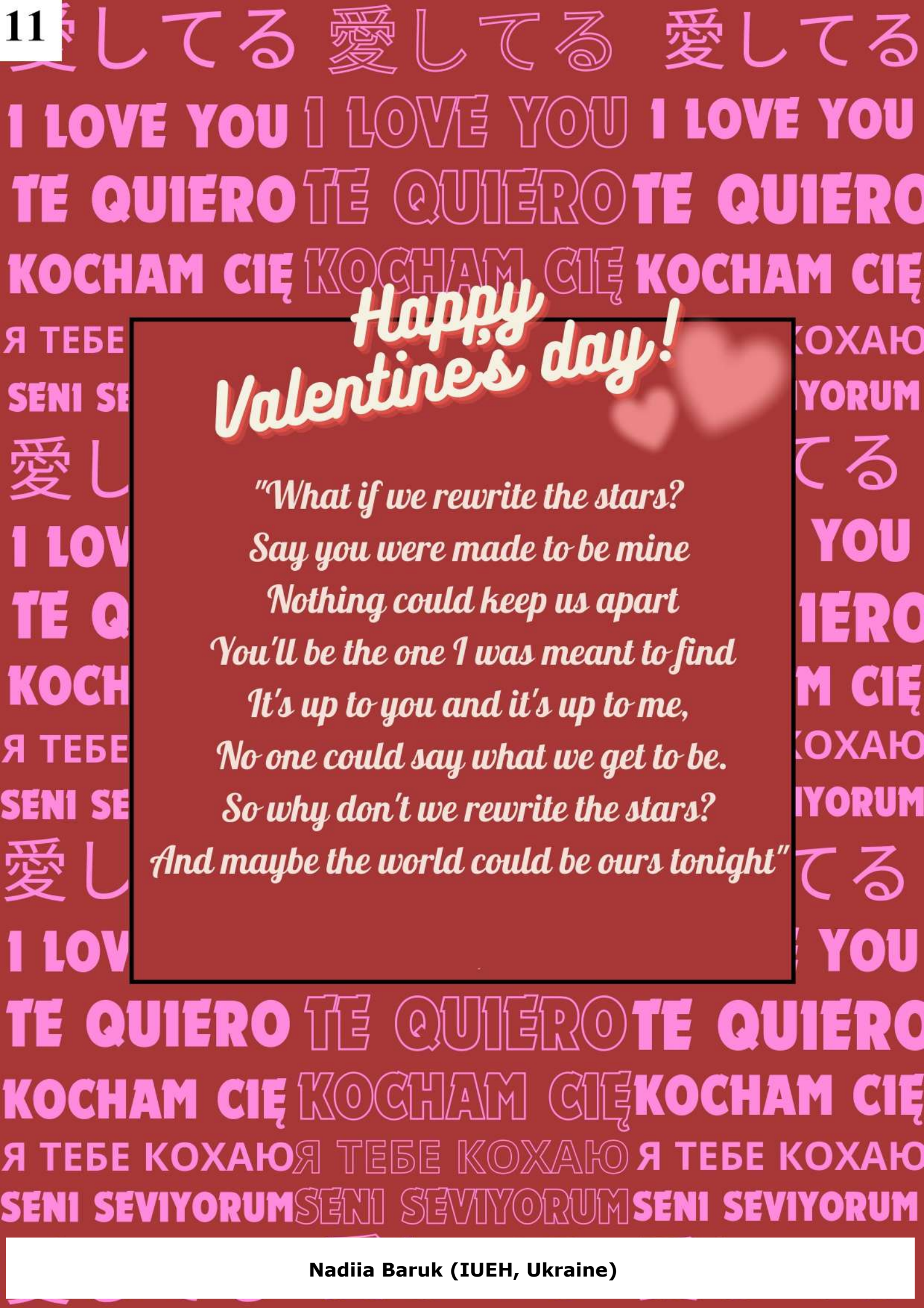
Here, we have a tradition called Día del Amor y la Amistad, where we exchange gifts, play "Secret Friend" (Amigo Secreto), and remind those around us how much they mean to us. Love is not just about hearts and roses; it is also about laughter shared over a cup of tinto, long conversations under a warm sky, and the joy of knowing that no matter where we are, we are never truly alone.

So today, I want to celebrate you. Whether as a friend, a kindred spirit, or something more, you are someone worth cherishing. May this day bring you joy, warmth, and the certainty that love—just like a good cumbia—knows no borders.

Happy Valentine's Day!



CATEGORY 2. POSTCARDS



*Happy
Valentine's day!*

*"What if we rewrite the stars?
Say you were made to be mine
Nothing could keep us apart
You'll be the one I was meant to find
It's up to you and it's up to me,
No one could say what we get to be.
So why don't we rewrite the stars?
And maybe the world could be ours tonight"*



Forever & Always



Happy Valentine's Day

Be Mine



February 14



You & Me



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Love feels the same in every language



Sefa Keskin (Cukurova University, Turkey)

It is believed that

Istanbul, Galata Tower

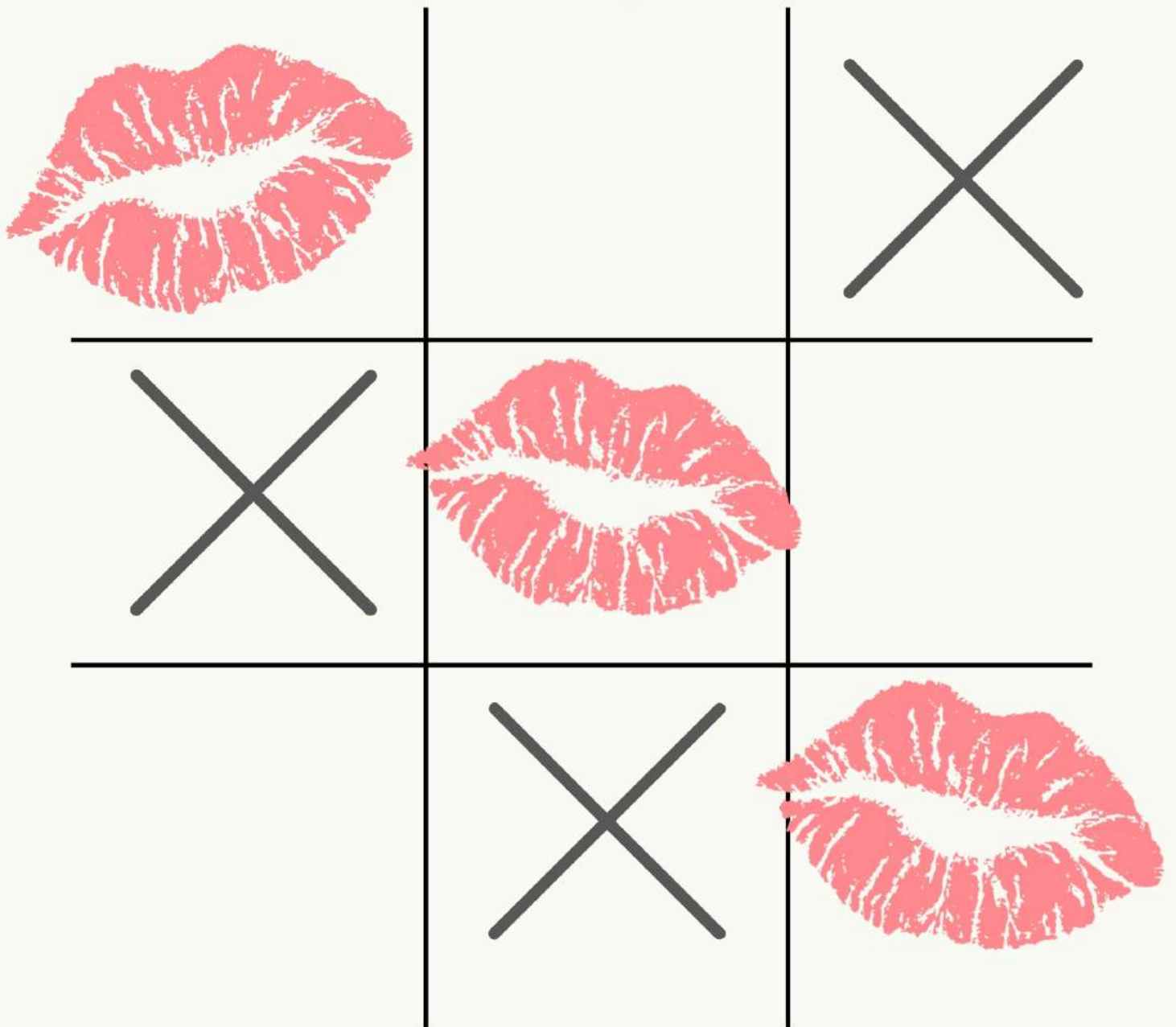


*Whoever you climb this historic tower with,
you are destined to marry...*



Maria Michalik (Silesian University of Technology, Poland)

Happy
Valentine's
Day



You win a kiss

**Antonia Słowik & Zuzanna Kozioł
(Silesian University of Technology, Poland)**



VALENTINE'S DAY NOT ALWAYS THE SAME



French couples often visit a village in Indre region called St. Valentine, where on February 14th they can receive an official certificate of their love from the mayor.

In Poland the only city booming with Valentine's day celebrations is Chetmno. One can expect special concerts, exhibitions and a whole themed market to take place on their arrival.



There is a country, where only girls give chocolate boxes for their lovers. Boys hand over presents a month later. It happens in Japan.



Ystävänpäivä (pronounced Yousta-van-PIE-vah) is a Finnish holiday celebrated in place of Valentine's day. The name loosely translate to "Friendship Day".

Other country that celebrates February 14th differently is Estonia. Sõbrapäev, the friendship day, is the day of for both lovers and friends.



In South Korea, every 14th of the month is a reason to celebrate love, and each month has a theme, e.g. Rose Day, Kiss Day, Silver Day, Photo Day, Wine Day or Hug Day.



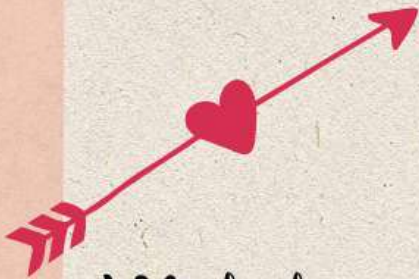
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Happy Valentine's Day

In this beautiful and special day,
your *company*, your *presence*, your
laughter, your *smile*, your *words*,
your *hugs* and principally *you*, are
very important to me.



So please, spend this day *by my side* and
let's create *precious* moments.



With love, *your Valentine.*

° 8 ♥ 6 °



Love

HAPPY VALENTINE

*"You are the aroma
that awakens my
soul, like a good
Colombian coffee in
the morning. With
you, every sip of
love is sweeter and
eternal."*



Haimer Santiago Muñoz Papamija (The University of Cauca, Colombia)

2025. 2. 14



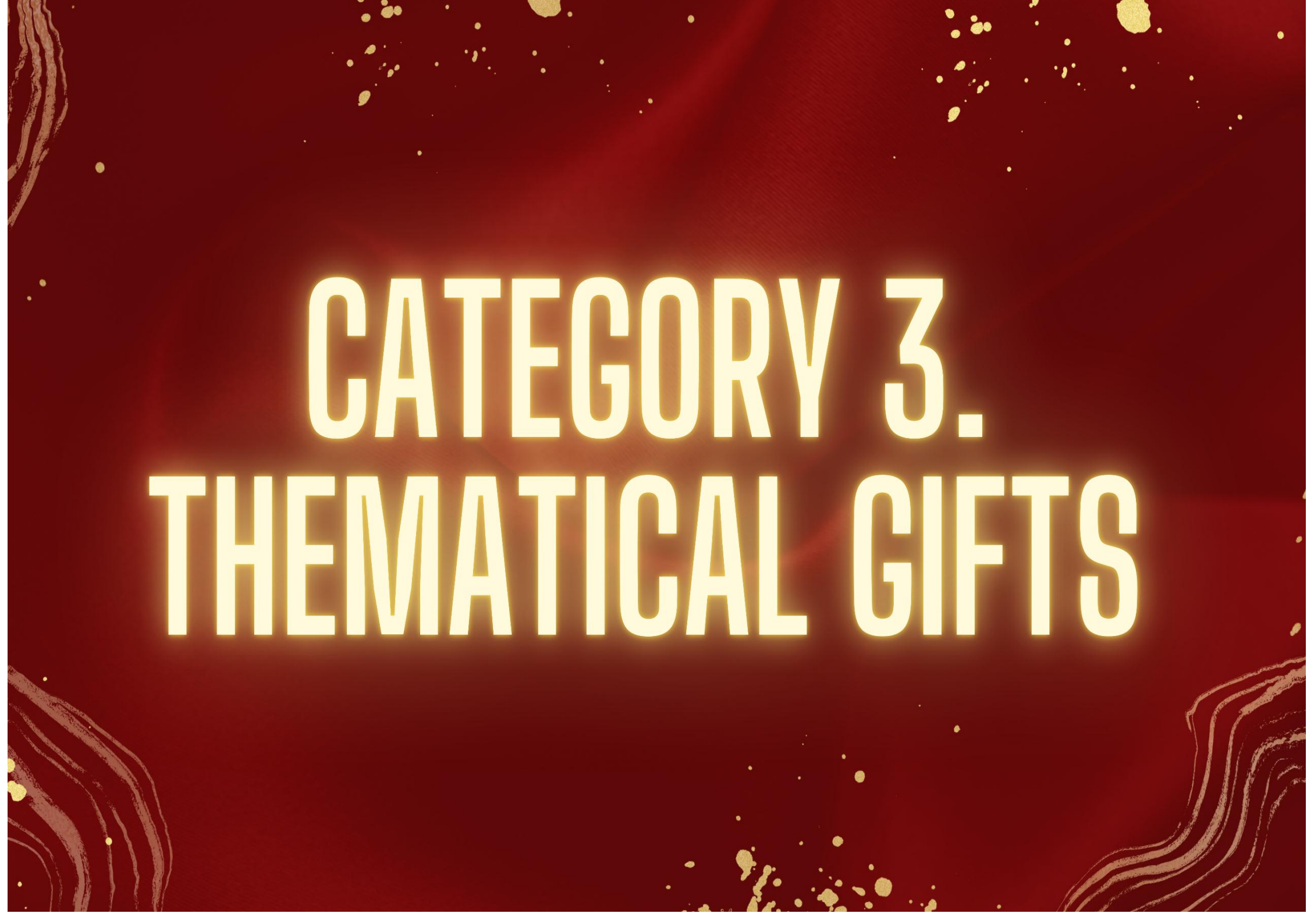
Yusaki Fukunaga (Hyogo Senior High School, Japan)

54 What's more special than receiving chocolate?

Your
Sweet
Smile



Ayaka Nishigami (Hyogo Senior High School, Japan)



CATEGORY 3.
THEMATICAL GIFTS



Mykhailo Fedoryshyn (Rivne School N 13, Ukraine)



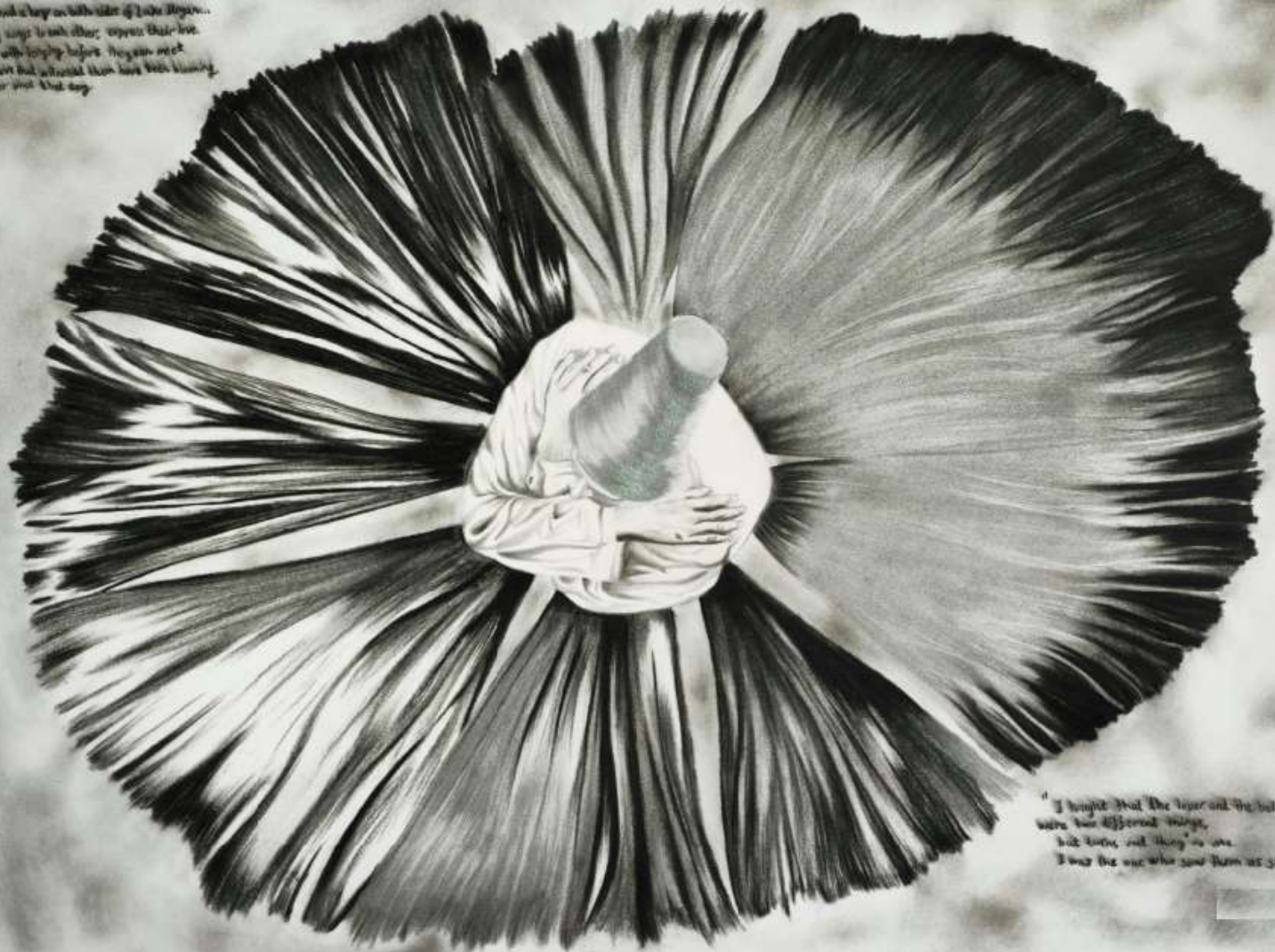
Liliia Lazarko (Rivne School N 13, Ukraine)

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Ozan Uzun (Cukurova University, Turkey)

A young girl and a boy on either side of Lake Urmia.
 They would say each to each other, across their love,
 but they die with longing before they can meet.
 The flowers of love had scattered them have been blowing
 by the sea ever since that day.



"I thought that the lover and the beloved
 were two different things,
 but now I see they're one.
 I was the one who saw them as separate."

Gülhan Karaman (Cukurova University, Turkey)

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SILVERY Bouquet

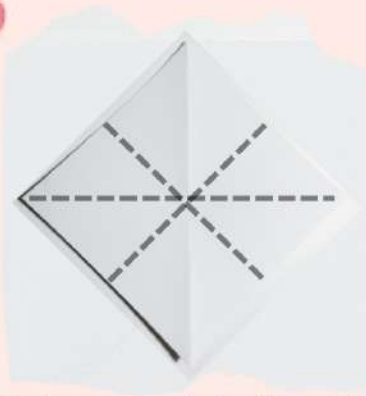


**Milena Lysko & Andrianna Waclawczyk
(Silesian University of Technology, Poland)**

DIY - your love gift



1 Prepare a square piece of paper



2. Fold the paper in half and in the x pattern remembering of opening the folded paper before every fold



3. Connect sides; A with B, then, holding them together connect C with D



4. Place it folded like this flat on the table



5. Draw a heart on a folded paper



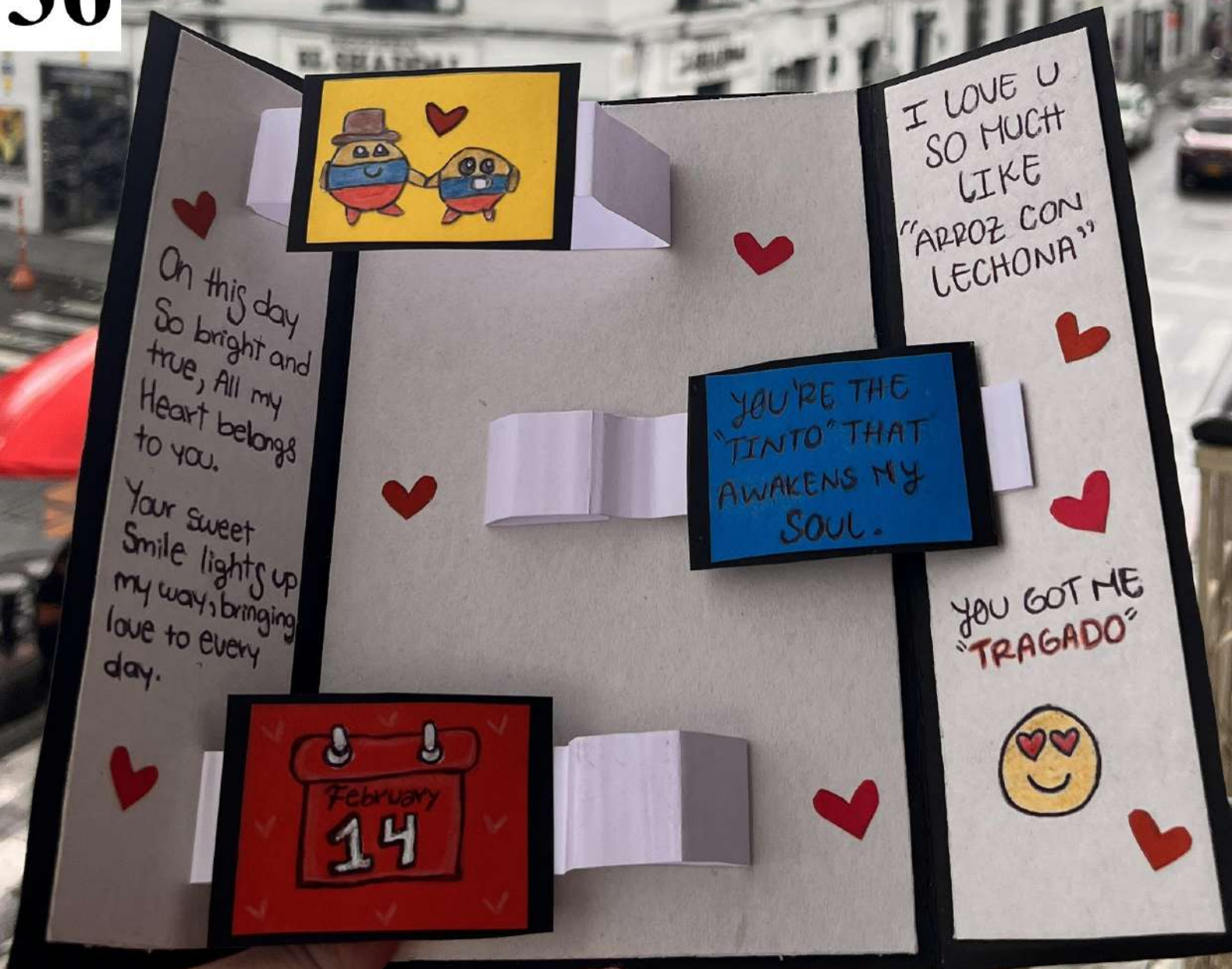
6. Cut out a heart



7. Draw and write something from the bottom of your heart!



8. Your Valentine's Day card is ready, share it with your beloved one!



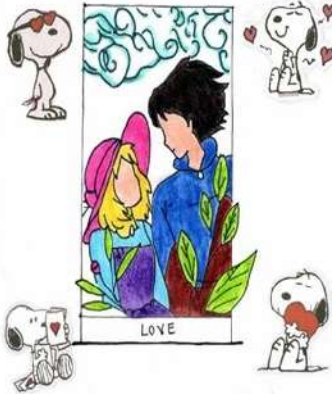
Natalia Fernández & Juan Galindez
(The University of Cauca, Colombia)

48 py Valen

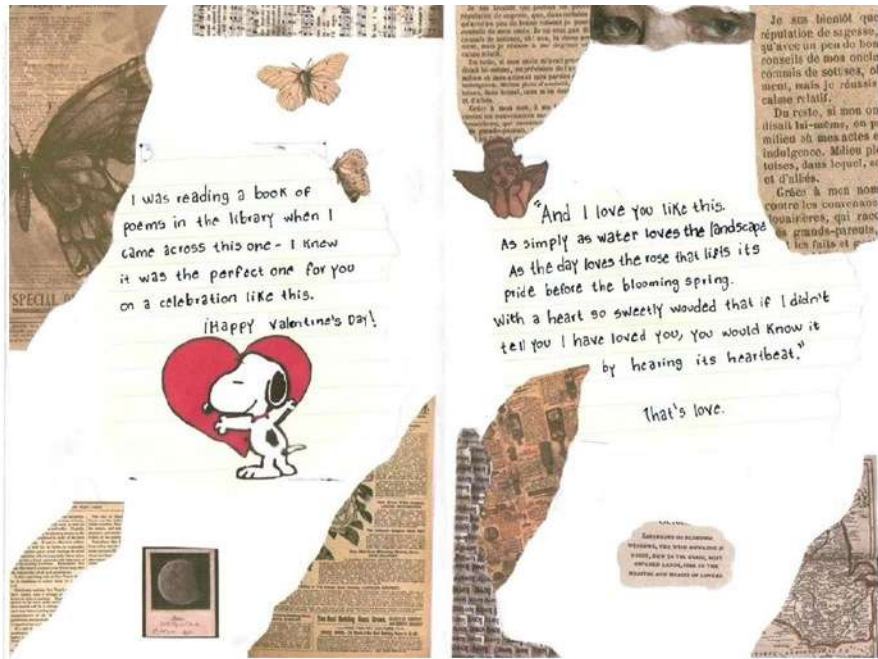


tine's Day

Valen



Day



I was reading a book of poems in the library when I came across this one - I knew it was the perfect one for you on a celebration like this.

Happy Valentine's Day!



"And I love you like this. As simply as water loves the landscape As the day loves the rose that lifts its pride before the blooming spring. With a heart so sweetly wounded that if I didn't tell you I have loved you, you would know it by hearing its heartbeat."

That's love.

Je suis bienôt que réputation de sage, qu'avec un peu de bon conseil de mon oncle commis de sottises, et ment, mais je réussis calme relatif. Du reste, si mon on ditait lui-même, on pr milieu de mes actes indulgence. Mieux pie et d'habés. Grâce à mon nom contre les convenan loquaires, qui raco les grands-parents, les fails et p...

Mabel Magdiel Guerrero Tapia (The University of Cauca, Colombia)

